

Message Text

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43

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CCO-00 CIAE-00 OTPE-00 EB-07 FCC-01

INR-07 NSAE-00 OC-06 USIA-06 COME-00 BIB-01 ACDA-07

DODE-00 PM-04 L-03 NASA-01 NSC-05 ERDA-05 OES-06 SS-15

/087 W

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R 291441Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

TO URUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 6650

USNATO 1483

C O N F I D E N T I A L REYKJAVIK 1292

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI

SUBJECT: ICELANDIC COMMERCIAL COMMUNICATIONS SATELLITE PLANS

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION CINCLANT INFO JCS, CINCLANTFLT, COMNAVTELCOM, AFCS, DCA WASHDC, DCA EUROPE, COMEASTLANT, NAVCAMSLANT, AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK, AND NAVCOMMSTA KEFLVIK FROM COMICEDEFOR KEFLAVIK SEPT 28TH (281314Z SEP 76) REPEATED TO YOU FOR INFO:

QUOTE

//N02800//

COMMERCIAL SATELLITE COMMUNICATIONS, ICELAND (U)

1. (U) DURING AN INDOCTRINATION TOUR OF ICELANDIC POST AND TELEGRAPH (IP&T) ON 21 SEPT 1976, BY IDF J-6, AND AN INFORMAL CONVERSATION WITH MR. JON SKULASON, DIRECTOR GENERAL, IP&T, THE SUBJECT OF A COMMERCIAL SATELLITE GROUND STATION IN ICELAND CAME UP. THE FOLLOWING INFORMAL INFORMATION PERTAINS:

A. AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE HAS BEEN REACHED BETWEEN GOI AND GREAT NORTHERN TELEGRAPH COMPANY TO INSTALL AN INTELSAT GROUNDSTATION IN ICELAND UNDER A PARTNERSHIP ARRANGEMENT WHICH WOULD EVENTUALLY RE-
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SULT IN FULL OWNERSHIP BY GOI. IP&T WILL RESERVE

THE RIGHT TO HANDLE ARRANGEMENTS AND ESTABLISH TARRIFS FOR LEASED CIRCUITS BETWEEN ICELAND AND U.S., WHILE LEASED CIRCUITS BETWEEN ICELAND AND EUROPE WILL BE HANDLED THROUGH THE PARTNERSHIP ARRANGEMENT. HOWEVER, THE DECISION TO PROCEED WITH INSTALLATION WILL BE BASED SOLELY ON THE EXISTING COMMERICAL NEEDS OF THE IP&T, NOT POTENTIAL LEASE AGREEMENTS.

B. INSTALLATION OF THE GROUND TERMINAL IS EXPECTED WITHIN TWO YEARS OF THE FORMAL GOI DECISION TO PROCEED. THIS DECISION IS EXPECTED WITHIN NEXT FEW MONTHS, AND WOULD RESULT IN INITIAL OPERATION OF THE TERMINAL IN EARLY CY 79.

C. BASED ON IP&T REQUIREMENTS ALONE, THE INITIAL SYSTEM WILL BE EQUIPPED FOR 30 TO 40 VOICE CHANNELS. ABOUT ONE-FOURTH OF THESE WOULD BE ROUTED TO U.S., THE REST TO EUROPE. NO PROBLEM WAS ANTICIPATED IN OBTAINING AN INITIAL ALLOCATION OF SATELLITE BANDWIDTH/POWER TO HANDLE DOUBLE THIS NUMBER OF CHANNELS.

D. THE GROUND STATION WILL HAVE A MAXIMUM CAPACITY OF 300 CHANNELS AND WILL BE DESIGNED IN ACCORDANCE WITH CCITT STANDARDS.

E. MICROWAVE EXPANSION AND IMPROVEMENTS ARE ALSO PLANNED BETWEEN REYKJAVIK AND HOFN. INITIAL OPERATIONAL DATE EXPECTED TO BE IN THE CY 79 TIME FRAME.

2. (U) MR. SKULASON ASKED WHETHER OR NOT THE U.S. MILITARY WOULD BE INTERESTED IN LEASING ANY SERVICE SO THAT THESE REQUIREMENTS COULD BE INCLUDED IN THE INITIAL CHANNEL CAPACITY OF THE SYSTEM. NO COMMITMENTS WERE MADE, HOWEVER, HE WAS ADVISED THAT HIS QUESTION WOULD BE REFERRED TO APPROPRIATE HEADQUARTERS FOR STUDY.

3. (U) A DECISION ON WHETHER OR NOT AND THE NUMBER OF CHANNELS THAT MIGHT BE APPROPRIATE TO LEASE ON THE COMMERICAL SATELLITE SYSTEM WOULD DEPEND ON OTHER DECISIONS REGARDING THE INSTALLATION OF A NATO OR U.S. SATELLITE GROUND STATION. HOWEVER, THE AVAILABILITY OF AN ALTERNATE HIGH CAPACITY AND RELIABLE COMMERCIAL SYSTEM IN ICELAND MAKES A MINIMAL COMMITMENT FOR SERVICE SEEM ADVISABLE REGARDLESS OF THE DECISION ON OTHER MILITARY SATELLITE SYSTEMS. THE OVERALL COM-
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MERCIAL CHANNEL CAPACITY TO BE MADE AVAILABLE ALSO RAISED A QUESTION CONCERNING THE BASIC NEED TO PROCEED WITH ANY MILITARY SATELLITE SYSTEM IN ICELAND. A HEAVY COMMITMENT FOR LEASED LINES IN THE COMMERCIAL SATELLITE MIGHT OBIVATE ALTOGETHER THE NEED FOR A MILITARY SYSTEM HERE. FROM THE STANDPOINT OF MOU LIMITATIONS ON THE NUMBER OF MILITARY PERSONNEL THAT CAN BE STATIONED IN ICELAND, LEASED SERVICE WOULD

BE PREFERRABLE TO MANNING ANOTHER MILITARY SYSTEM.

4. (C) BASED ON A PRELIMINARY REVIEW OF EXISTING CIRCUITRY TERMINATING IN ICELAND THE FOLLOWING IS A PARTIAL LIST OF POTENTIAL CANDIDATE CIRCUITS THAT MIGHT BE APPROPRIATE FOR PRIMARY OR ALTERNATE ROUTING ON A COMERCIAL SATELLITE. NOTE, HOWEVER, THAT ARRANGEMENTS FOR FUNDING SUCH LEASES HAVE NOT BEEN ADDRESSED.

CIRCUIT	TYPE/USE	TO
9BQJ	DATA GRADE AUTOVON ACCESS	MART. HEATH, U.K.
F980	VOICE GRADE HOTLINE	CINCLANT
9B41	VOICE RADAR COORDINATION	BUCHAN, SCOTLANT
6D05	VFCT	CROUGHTON, U.K.
9HDB	150BD AUTODIN ACCESS	CROUGHTON, U.K.
CIRCUIT	TYPE/USE	TO
6N65/F699	VFCT/AUTODIN ACCESS	NORFOLK/FT. DETRICK
6N64	NSGA VFCT	NORTHWEST, VA
6N02	ASWCCS	CINCLANT
9BQM	NBST AUTOSEVOCOMM ACCESS	MART. HEATH, U.K.
A691	2400BD NAVFAC DATA	NORFOLK, VA
NA 15-3	NATO ASW VOICE	PETREIVE SCOTLAND

5. (U) IF THERE EXISTS ANY POTENTIAL OR REAL INTEREST IN USE OF THE ICELANDIC COMMERCIAL SATELLITE SYSTEM, EARLY NOTIFICATION TO THE IP&T WILL IMPROVE CHANCES THAT SERVICE CAN BE PROVIDED AT THE INITIAL OPERATIONAL DATE. REQUEST

PAGE SIX RUDISAB0399 C O N F I D E N T I A L
INFORMATION WHICH MAY BE USED TO FORMULATE A RESPONSE TOO
IP&T.

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Message Attributes

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Draft Date: 29 SEP 1976
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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